

Dear Commissioners:

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators RM-10870, does not represent what is best for the future of Amateur Radio. I disagree with the petition entirely.

Morse Code:

I feel morse code examination has been a very important aspect of amateur radio and should be continued as requirement for HF access. Giving over 215,000 technician class operator's access to the general HF band segment is going to cause chaos and constant interference due to limited frequency space. I feel eventually it is going to have a domino effect causing petition for the CW segment to be reduced. As the VE team leader for a local radio club, I have found most examinees that have passed Element 1, have taken the time to actually study theory that is required for higher class licenses and follow better operating practices, instead of just memorizing the question pool like every 1 out of 2 technician class applicants that come in for a test. Morse code is a skill that can't be memorized like the question pool, and some people just don't want to spend more than the fee days that it takes to memorize the question pool. Taking a code test at 5 wpm requires a little time and practice, but is not an impossible task for most people.

Communicator License:

The NCVEC claims that the current technician license test of 35 questions is too complicated. I totally disagree. Back in 1996, when I first got licensed as a No-Code Technician, I was required to take the novice theory test (35 questions) and the technician theory test (35 questions) to earn my No-Code Technician license. The license restructuring of 2000 already simplified the entry license, the No-Code Technician down to one 35 question test. There is no need for the Communicator license as it dumbs down amateur radio by over simplification and allowing you to have a copy of FCC Part 97 available for reference while you take the exam. This license is basically a open book exam.

Automatic upgrading of Technicians to General:

The General written theory examination covers many topics concerning HF communication that the Technician license test does not cover. The topics in the General theory test are essential to operating a HF station and would help maintain order on the HF bands. A written test should definitely remain between the Technician and General Class licenses.

I strongly encourage the commission to dismiss this petition, RM-10870.

Respectfully,

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